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OGC HAS REVIEWED.

4 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Social Security File

SUBJECT : Meeting with Richard Branham, Bureau of Old Age and
Survivors Insurance, Tuesday, 4 May, 1954

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1. [redacted] and I met with Mr. Branham in his office in Baltimore this morning to discuss several matters involving the Social Security status of covert personnel or projects.

2. The first two items discussed were form letter requests by field agents of the Social Security Administration for particularization of the nature of employment by two individuals who filed 1952 Federal income tax returns showing their compensation as received from self-employment. The form letters questioned whether the individuals were, in fact, self-employed. I explained the circumstances to Mr. Branham and he stated that he would undertake to satisfy both inquiries for us. He assured us that the individuals could expect to receive no further correspondence.

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3. The last matter discussed was the investigation of the Social Security picture of [redacted]. Counsel for [redacted] had previously complained to [redacted] that an over-zealous agent of Social Security was bothering him with questions, the answers to which if fully given might transgress upon security grounds. I had earlier given the name of the agent to Mr. Branham and since our last discussion he had obtained the agent's file on the case. Apparently, the agent had made a number of visits to [redacted] the bulk of which were in connection with establishing appropriate credits toward retirement of certain more senior officials of [redacted]. In the agent's report there was only one mention made of inquiries with respect to the subject matter about which the lawyer was questioned. Mr. Branham stated that so far as he could tell any investigation which the agent had made was now complete and that unless subsequent questions arose concerning retirement credit, the lawyer should have no reason to fear further embarrassing requests. Mr. Branham asked whether it would be appropriate for him to flag the file with the notation that no one was to go near [redacted] without first obtaining his approval. We felt that since the matter now looked to be quiet, this would only serve to arouse suspicion. We stated that we would prefer, therefore, that no notation be placed in the file. We said that we would alert [redacted] and its counsel to notify us immediately should any subsequent inquiry be received from the agent. Mr. Branham replied that upon receiving a notice from us of such further inquiry he could immediately move into the case.

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